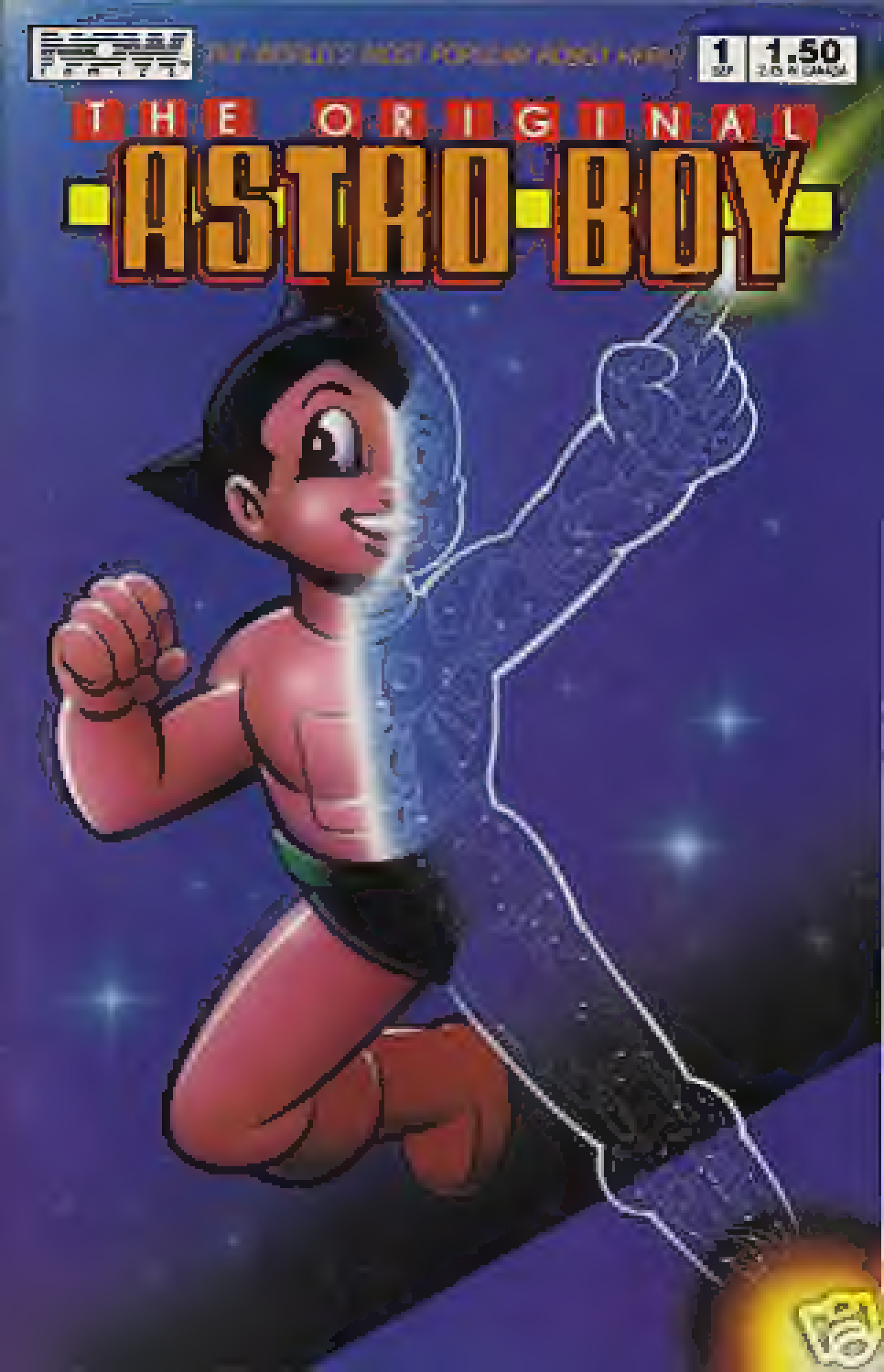
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THE ORIGINAL
ASTRO-BOY

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THE ORIGINAL ASTRO BOY #1

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WRITTEN BY
MICHAEL DIMPSEY

ILLUSTRATED BY
KEN STEACY &
RODNEY DUNN

COLORED BY
KEN STEACY, DEBRA MARKS, PAUL RIVOCHE

COVER BY
KEN STEACY

An Astroboy for everyone . . .

I'm not going to say anything about the "state of the industry," nor will I mention a word about censorship. What I'm going to write about is something a little different. Oh yes, it will be about comic books. Not all comic books, but a specific one. You may be holding it in your hands right now.

The book? *The Original Astroboy.* Why *Astroboy*? Well, I received an incredible amount of mail because of this little robot, letters from *Astroboy* fans that state they are so happy that *NOW Comics* is going to publish a monthly *Astroboy* comic. A few were disappointed that it wasn't the original Osamu Tezuka books from the late fifties, others were screaming in joy that Ken Steacy was involved.

Thank you for all your letters. We are always interested in what our fans have to say, *SPEED RACER* and *RACER X* fans, too. (Although K.F., I think carving an "X" on your forehead is a bit too much).

When you read *ASTROBOY*, you will be reading one of the highest-quality comic books produced on the continent.

Yes, it is based on the original series from 1964, but keep two very important things in mind.

First, that back in the early sixties robots were new to popularity, making *Astroboy* a big hit. It was actually the number-one rated syndicated show for two years. Today, we have robots galore: Movies, comics, novels, commercials, music videos and even toys! Although *Astroboy* may be *"Mickey Mouse"* in Japan, here he's a memory.

Second, and more importantly, is the fact that we are creating a comic book from an animation. The comic book is *based* on the animation, not an adaptation of it. I think Tom Franck said it best in a recent letter about our *SPEED RACER* comic. He said, "Merely retelling the 52 episodes (of *SPEED RACER*) in your comic book would be foolish as any *SPEED* fan can easily recite the plot of every episode." There is just so much you can fit into a twenty-four page story with X-amount of panels, to build characterization and develop the plot—a few of the necessary ingredients for a high-quality comic book. I am interested in not only producing an *ASTROBOY* comic book, but a *great Astroboy Comic book.*

The majority of this book's buyers may have a vague memory of a little robot with two points on his head who can fly. The NOW Comic's *Astroboy* is much more than that. Pick up *The Original Astroboy* #1 and read it. It's a great comic; I know you'll enjoy it! I know I did, and I'm not a fan.

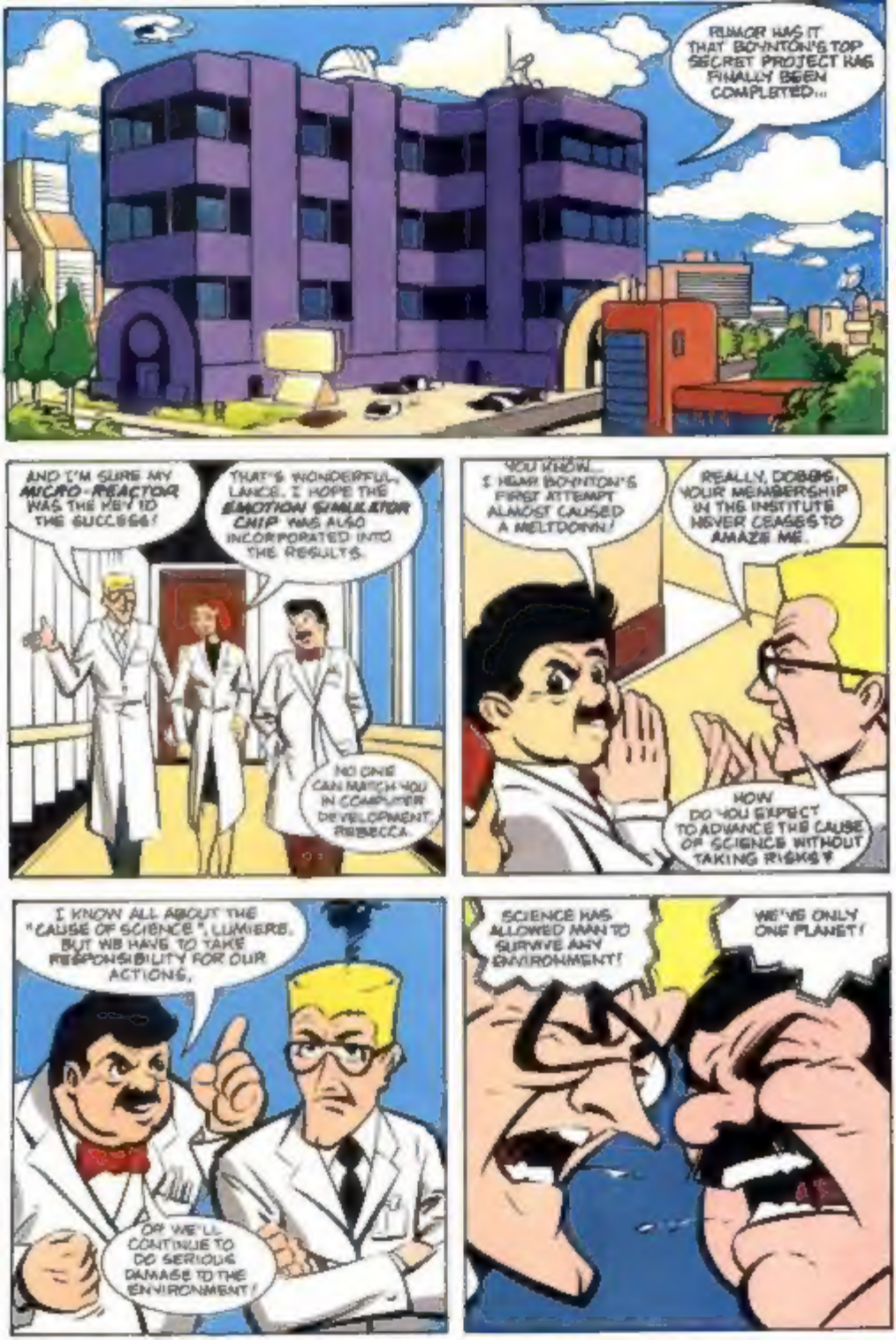
Tony Caputo
Publisher, NOW Comics

I'VE LOST TOO MUCH TO THE WEAKNESS OF FLESH AND BONE.
STEEL AND PLASTIC WILL ASSURE THAT YOU NEVER LEAVE ME AGAIN!

KA-CHAK!

ZZZZAK
COME TO ME!

COME TO ME...
MY SON.
STORY: MIKE DIMPSEY
ART: KEN STEACY
COLORS: PAUL RIVOCHE, KEN STEACY, & DEB MARKS
LETTERS: DEB MARKS
EDITS: TONY CAPUTO
ORIGINAL CHARACTERS AND STORIES BY OSAMU TEZUKA!


RUMOR HAS IT THAT BOYNTON'S TOP SECRET PROJECT HAS FINALLY BEEN COMPLETED...
AND I'M SURE MY MICRO-REACTOR WAS THE KEY TO THE SUCCESS!
THAT'S WONDERFUL, LANCE. I HOPE THE EMOTION SIMULATOR CHIP WAS ALSO INCORPORATED INTO THE RESULTS.
NO ONE CAN MATCH YOU IN COMPUTER DEVELOPMENT, REBECCA.
YOU KNOW... I HEARD BOYNTON'S FIRST ATTEMPT ALMOST CAUSED A MELTDOWN!
REALLY, DOBBS, YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN THE INSTITUTE NEVER CEASES TO AMAZE ME.
HOW DO YOU EXPECT TO ADVANCE THE CAUSE OF SCIENCE WITHOUT TAKING RISKS?
I KNOW ALL ABOUT THE "CAUSE OF SCIENCE", LUMIERE. BUT WE HAVE TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR OUR ACTIONS.
OR WE'LL CONTINUE TO DO SERIOUS DAMAGE TO THE ENVIRONMENT!
SCIENCE HAS ALLOWED MAN TO SURVIVE ANY ENVIRONMENT!
WE'VE ONLY ONE PLANET!

REALLY? YOU TWO!
BUT REBECCA, LUMIERE STARTED--
ELMER DOBBS! IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE YOU'RE A LEADING FIGURE IN GENETIC RESEARCH WHEN YOU BEHAVE THIS WAY!
NOW I THINK YOU AND LANCE OUGHT TO APOLOGIZE.
SHE'S RIGHT. WE'RE BOTH VALUABLE ASSETS TO THE INSTITUTE.
GLAD TO HEAR YOU SAY IT, LUMIERE.
AND DOBBS... I'M SURE SOME-DAY HUMANITY WILL THANK YOU FOR INVENTING THE SKINLESS POTATO.
LANCE! YOU'RE AWFUL.
MOTOR, IT'S TIME FOR YOUR PHYSICS LESSON.

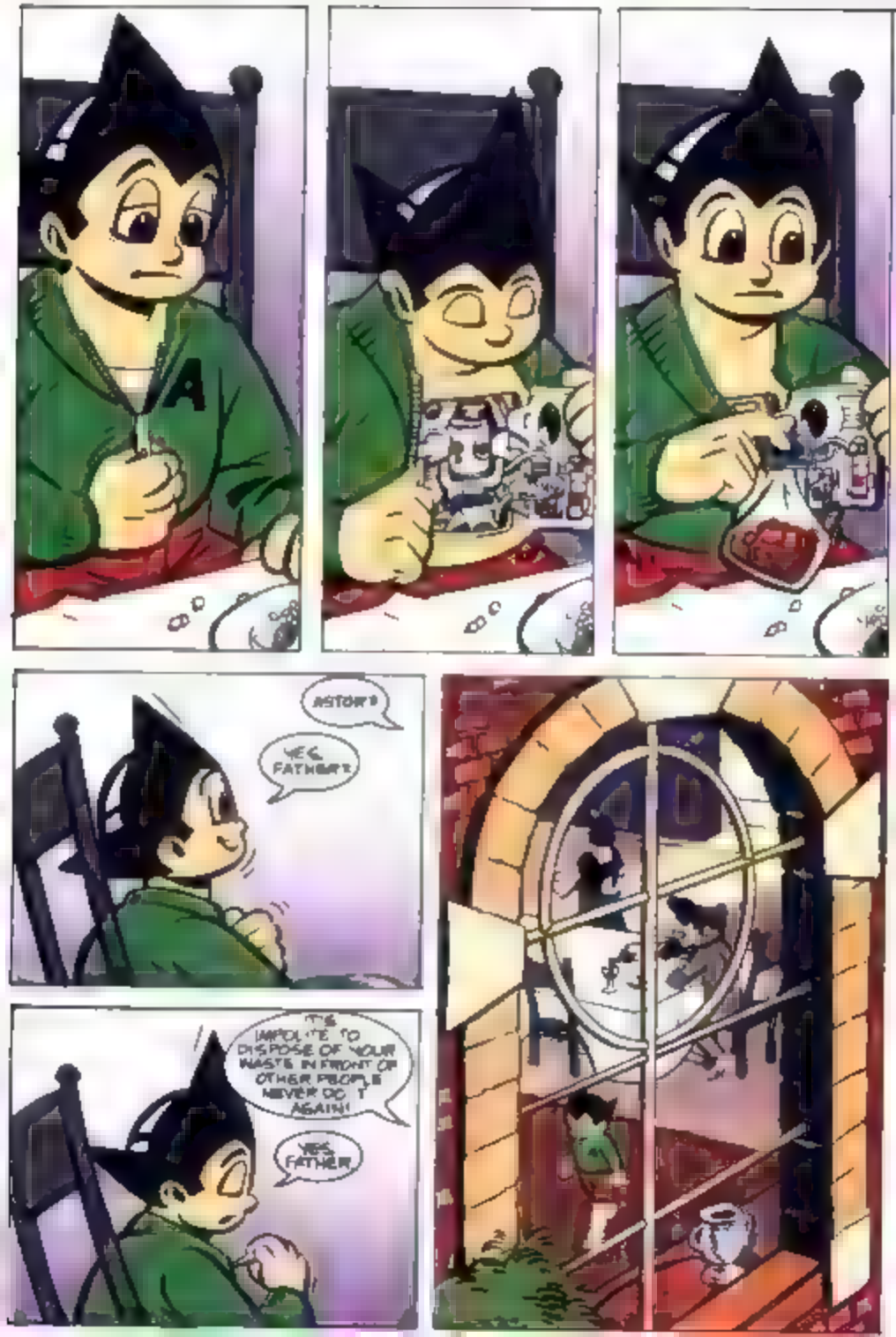
THUS WE SEE QUANTUM PHYSICS AS DEALING IN TERMS OF STATISTICS AND PROBABILITIES, NOT CERTAINTIES AND INEXORABLE SEQUENCES OF CAUSE AND EFFECTS BETWEEN INDIVIDUAL HAPPENINGS.
HMM— FROM MY STUDIES IN PHILOSOPHY... THIS CONFIRMS THE EXISTANCE OF MANS FREE WILL.
E=HV
BECAUSE IF WE COULD DETERMINE THE EXACT STATE OF THE WORLD AND THE FORCES ACTING UPON IT AT AN INSTANT OF TIME... THEN THE "STATE" OF THE WORLD COULD BE PREDICTED AN INSTANT LATER!
BUT THE QUANTUM THEORY CONTRADICTS THAT IDEA... THE EXACT STATE OF THE WORLD CAN NEVER BE KNOWN
CORRECT, MY SON, BUT REMEMBER IT IS ONLY A THEORY... WHICH I WILL SOMEDAY PROVE FALSE!
YOU MEAN YOU COULD PREDICT THE FUTURE?

NOT ONLY PREDICT THE FUTURE...BUT TO EXPERIENCE AND MOLD IT BEFORE IT BECOMES REALITY.
BUT DOESN'T "REALITY" JUST ACROSS ALL PLANS—
HA, HA! I CAN HARDLY WAIT FOR YOU TO GROW UP, MY SON!
THEN YOU SHALL REPLACE ME AS HEAD OF THE INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE... AND I'LL BE THE HAPPIEST MAN IN ANY "REALITY".
HEY! KICK ME THE BALL!
GO WITH SIMON AND FINISH YOUR LESSON IN YOUR ROOM!
YES, FATHER.

WARNING! YOU ARE TRESPASSING! NEVER RETURN OR FACE PUNISHMENT BY THE AUTHORITIES!
YOU'VE REALLY DONE IT, BOYNTON! YOU'VE INCORPORATED SOME OF THE BEST MINDS OF THE INSTITUTE INTO YOUR PROJECT... AND THE RESULTS ARE EXTREMELY IMPRESSIVE.
BUT THE INSTITUTE WAS SET UP TO PROGRESS PEACE... AND YET YOUR DESIGN IS LOADED WITH ENOUGH WEAPONS TO TAKE ON AN ENTIRE ROBOT PLATOON!
AHH-- BUT I GUESS, MY DEAR DR. BOYNTON, I'LL RECEIVE THE ANSWER TO MY QUESTION WHEN I DISCOVER THE WHEREABOUTS OF YOUR "ASTRO BOY"!

ASTOR SIT UP STRAIGHT AND DON'T CHEW WITH YOUR MOUTH OPEN
FATHER WHY DOESN'T MILLIE EAT WITH US?
MILLIE? DON'T BE SILLY, SON. SHE DOESN'T NEED TO EAT MILLIE'S A ROBOT!
WHAT'S A ROBOT?
A ROBOT. ? IT'S UH A MACHINE AND NOTHING MORE! NOW FINISH YOUR CARROTS!
ISN'T SHE JUST LIKE US?
SHE'S A MACHINE NO THOUGHTS OR FEELINGS
WHY DOES SHE SMILE?

MILLIE CAN DO NOTH NG UNLESS I PROGRAM HER. THE ONLY "FEELINGS" SHE HAS ARE THE ONES I GIVE HER!
SHE'S ONLY A MACHINE— METAL AND PLASTIC! I COULD REPLACE HER WITH ANY ROBOT!
OOPS!
DON'T UNDER-STAND - DON'T YOU LIKE MILLIE?
ARE YOU STUPID?! HOW MANY T MES MUST I TELL YOU - SHE S A MACHINE! A ROBOT! GOOD FOR NOTH NG BUT WHAT I PROGRAM HER FOR!


ASTOR?
YES, FATHER?
IT'S IMPOLITE TO DISPOSE OF YOUR WASTE IN FRONT OF OTHER PEOPLE. NEVER DO IT AGAIN!
YES, FATHER

MAJOR REPORT ON THE STATUS OF PROJECT MIGHTY ATOM!
WELL, UH GENERAL HAWKINS THERE'S NOT MUCH INFOR—
WE'VE GENEROUSLY ACCOMMODATED THE BUDGET FOR DR BOYNTON—
I DEMAND SOME INFORMATION REGARDING HIS PROGRESS
WELL MA'AM, IT'S ONLY SPECULATION AT THIS POINT—
AH IT'S UH, RUMORED THAT THE DOCTOR HAS SUCCEEDED IN CREATING A PROTO-TYPE OF MIGHTY ATOM—
WEST
I W-WE DON'T KNOW MA'AM—
WHERE IS TYE?
MIGHTY ATOM BELONGS TO US! WE PAID FOR IT AND I'LL DO WHATEVER IS NECESSARY TO SECURE OUR PROPERTY

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, SON?
I'VE DISCOVERED BIOLOGY! FATHER I'M CREATING "LIFE"!
UHH...
THE STUDY OF LIFE OR BIOLOGY WAS MENTIONED BRIEFLY IN A FEW OF THE LEARNING TAPES. ITS CONCEPTS ARE SIMPLE - COMBINED SIMPLE CELLS PRO TEINS COMPLEX ORGANISMS!
EACH CHIP AND CIRCUIT HOLDS A SPECIAL "CODE" WHEN COMBINED THEY PRODUCE "LIFE"
YOU WERE UNHAPPY, FATHER - SO I THOUGHT I'D BUILD YOU ANOTHER SON!

LET'S PLAY A GAME NOW ABOUT YOUR FAVORITE?
YOU BE THE LITTLE DOG AND I'M THE RACING CAR YOU GO FIRST
HMM— IT APPEARS TO BE QUITE SIMPLE YOU MOVE A REPRESENTATIONAL FIGURE THROUGH A BASIC COURSE BRIDGES ARE SHORTCUTS AND TUNNELS DETOURS
THERE'S A ONE OUT OF 6 4'S MILLION CHANCE OF COMPLETING THE COURSE IN THE MINIMUM OF 2 CYCLES
THEORETICALLY YOU COULD ALSO BE STUCK FOLLOWING THE TUNNELS TILL INFINITY
IT'S YOUR TURN
PICK A CARD, AGTOR
I SAID..
IT'S YOUR
TURN!!

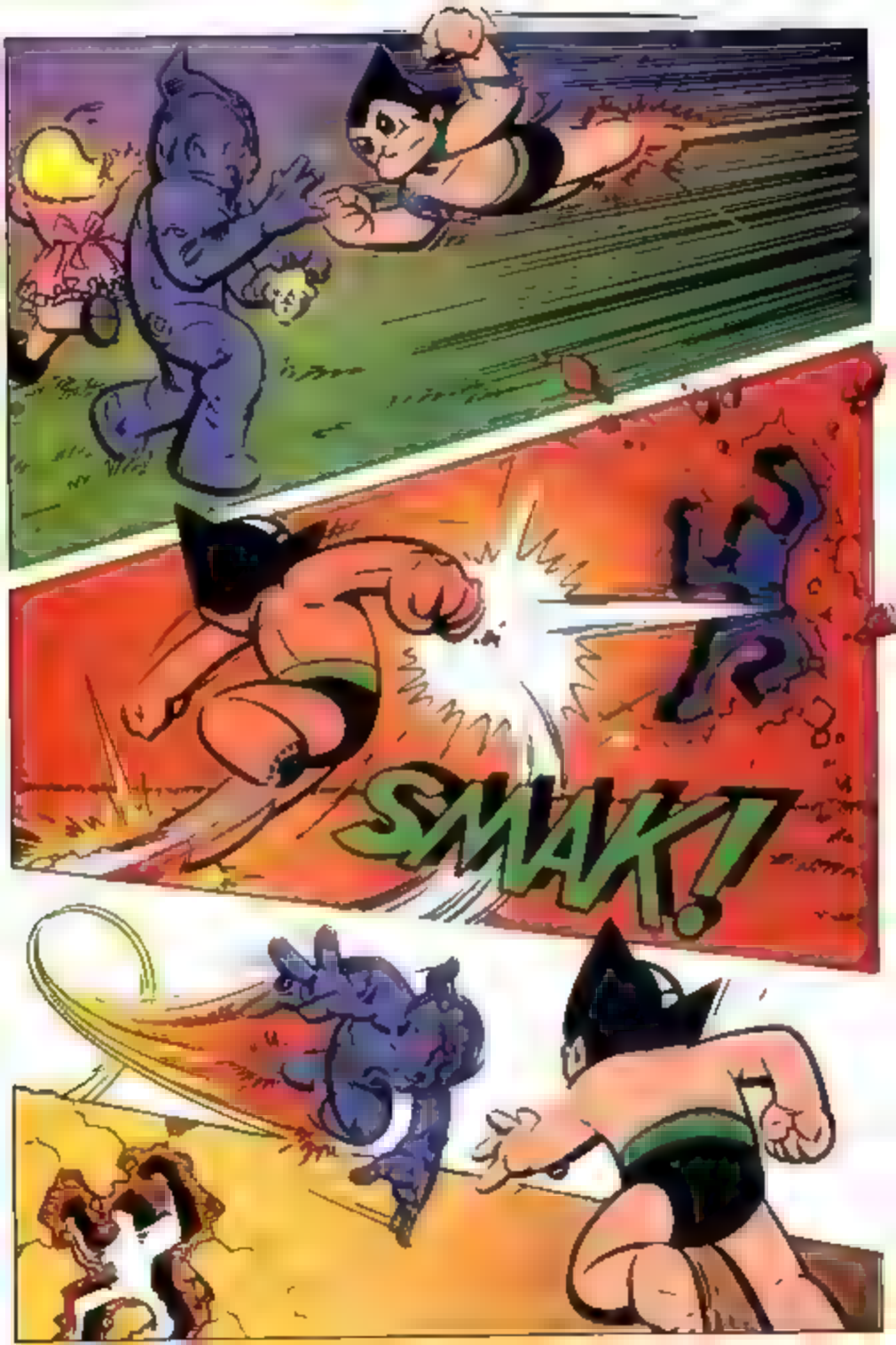
YOU ARE NOT MY SON!
THEY'RE INSANE--
CHOOSING THAT GEEK BOYNTON OVER ME. THE GREATEST MIND EVER CONCEIVED ON THE PLANET. WHAT AM I SAYING? IN THE INIVERSE
I, PROF I.Q. PLENTY SHOULD BE DIRECTOR OF THE INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE. RECEIVING ALL THE FRILLS THAT COME WITH THE TITLE - LIKE WOMEN!
BOYNTON'S STOLEN MY RIGHTFUL POSITION, MY GREATEST INVENTION, AND THE CHANCE TO REALLY SWING!
NOW I'M REQUIRED TO SEEK REVENGE. I MUST DEVISE A PLAN THAT IS SO DIABOLICAL... SO DEVIOUS... SO UTTERLY NASTY--
ANY IDEAS SPUD?
SORRY, BOSS, YER GONNA HAFTA LET ME SLEEP ON IT

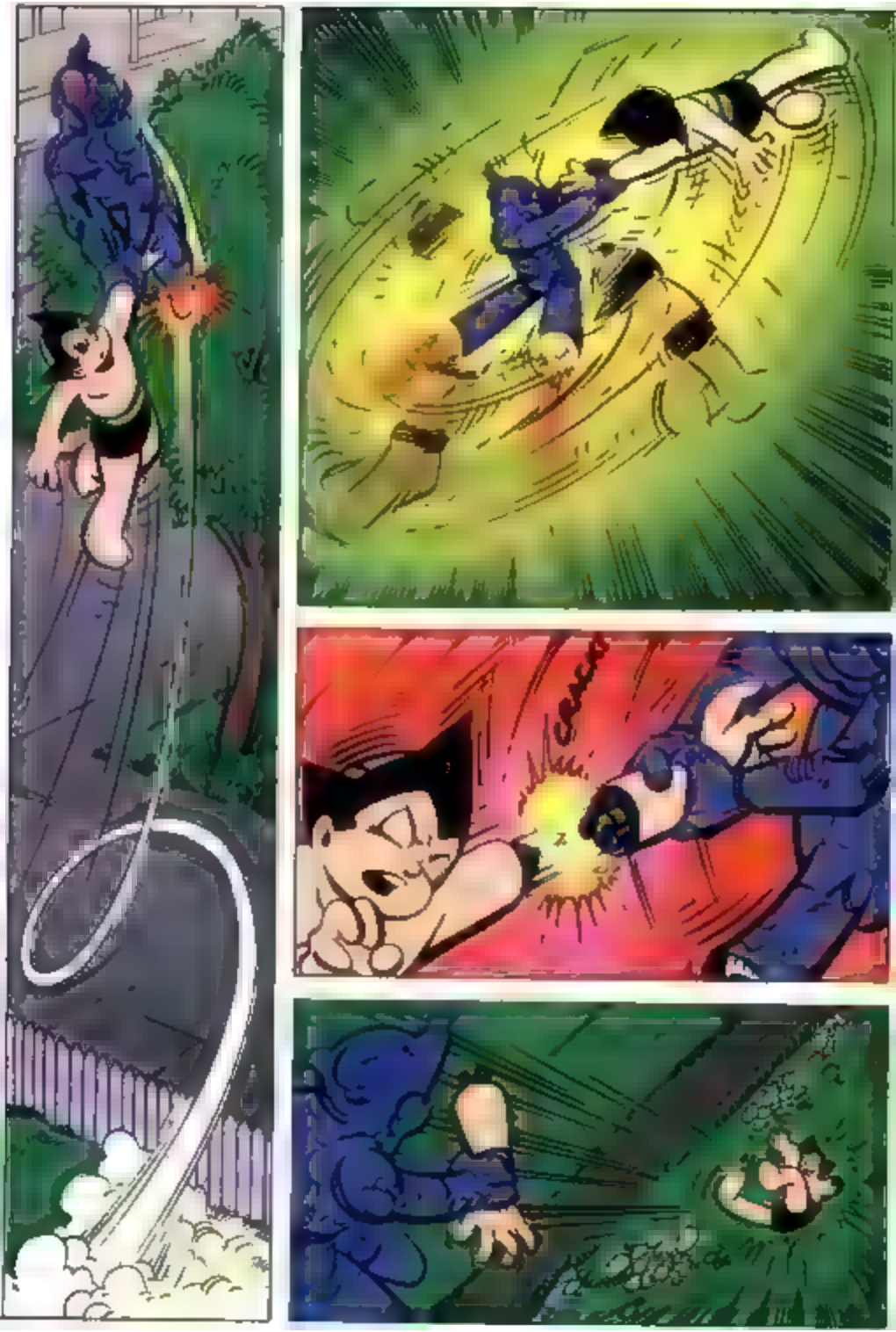
I DON'T-- EH FF - UNDERSTAND
H2O AND SODIUM NITRATE ARE PRODUCED IN MY CONDENSATION COILS... BUT WHY DOES IT TRICKLE FROM DUCTS IN MY EYES?
SLEEP!

WOW!
WHAT IS THE MATTER? WHY ARE YOU HIDING IN THE BASEMENT?
GLEEP!
WERE YOU ONCE FATHER'S SON, TOO?
GEE, EVERYTHING'S MELTED... I SEE THE PROBLEM!
GLEEP!
THERE YOU GO... YOUR FUSION CARBURETOR WAS TURNED DOWN
MY NAME'S ASTOR
YOU CAN BE MY FRIEND, AS I-CLUNK
Y-SHREEK M-FR GLEEP!

WE'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO GO OUTSIDE - BUT FATHER WILL NEVER KNOW IF WE GO HOME SOON
HELLO WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
PLAYING HOUSE
CAN WE PLAY?
YOU CAN BE THE FATHER
FATHER?! I AM THE SON!
NO! YOU'RE PRETTY AND HE'S UGLY!
PRETTY
PRETTY LIKE BABY MARIE -- HEY!

POP!
GIVE HER BACK THE DOLL!
POW!
KRUMPF!


SMAK!



WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU, AS*D-CLUNK?
MY SENSORS INDICATE INTENSE HEAT!
AS*D-CLUNK, STOP! YOU'RE CAUSING A MELTDOWN OF THE REACTOR CORE! YOU'LL DESTROY YOURSELF!

ASHE-CLUNK, WAIT!
I CAN HELP—
KA-BOOM!
HEY, YOU!
LET ME SEE YER LICENCE!
LICENCE?
DON'T PLAY CUTE, BATTERY-BREATH— ALL ROBOTS HAFTA CARRY A LICENCE!

I'M NOT A ROBOT! I'M A SON!
SURE
HAVE YAH TOO MUCH LEAD IN YER FUEL? YER A ROBOT— MADE OF PLASTIC AND METAL!
!?!
SO PICK UP THE PARTS AND DRAG YER DIODE BACK TA YER MASTER OR I'LL SHORT YER CIRCUITS!
HUMPH! ROBOTS — NEXT THING YA KNOW, THEY'LL WANNA BE TREATED LIKE HUMANS!

The one that started it all!

written by Mike Dimpsey
illustrated by Ken Steacy and Rodney Dunn
Colored by Ken Steacy

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